

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A method ~~for communicating messages using a signaling compression protocol, the method~~ comprising:

detecting control messages at a communication intermediary from a compressed stream of messages;

decompressing the detected control messages at the communication intermediary; and

passing user messages from the compressed stream of messages through the communication intermediary without modifications, wherein the user messages are not decompressed at any point between a first end device and a second end device.

2. (Original) The method claim 1, wherein the control messages comprise a multiplex identifier.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the multiplex identifier is located at the beginning of a communication session.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein detecting control messages at ~~a~~ the communication intermediary from ~~a~~ the compressed stream of messages comprises detecting the multiplex identifier.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the user messages are messages without the multiplex identifier.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the control messages are hop-by-hop messages and the user messages are end-to-end messages.

7. (Currently Amended) A apparatus ~~that communicates messages using a signaling compression protocol, the apparatus~~ comprising:

an input ~~that configured to~~ receives a compressed stream of messages originating from a first end device intended for a second end device;

an output ~~that configured to~~ transmits messages intended for the second end device;

a processor ~~that configured to~~ detects control messages included in the compressed

stream of messages received by the input, wherein the processor is further configured to decompresses the control messages and directs non-control messages from the compressed stream of messages to be communicated through the output without modification, wherein the non-control messages are not decompressed at any point between the first end device and the second end device.

8. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the processor is configured to detects the control messages by identifying a special bytecode contained in the control messages.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the control messages are used at the beginning of a session and the processor is configured to enters a forwarding mode after the control messages are received.

11. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the modification comprises decompression.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~A system for communicating messages using a signaling compression protocol, the system comprising:~~

~~a first communication end device having comprising a compressor and a decompressor;~~

~~a second communication end device having comprising a compressor and a decompressor; and~~

~~an intermediate relay between the first communication device and the second communication device that configured to detects and decompresses control messages in messages communicated originating from the first communication end device, and passes user messages intended for through to the second communication end device through without decompression, wherein the user messages are not decompressed at any point between the first end device and the second end device.~~

13. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 12, wherein the intermediate relay is configured to detects control messages when the intermediate relay by detects detecting an identifier located in the messages.

14. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 12, wherein the intermediate relay is configured to enters forwarding mode after control messages are received.

15-20 (Canceled)

21. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the control messages comprise a multiplexing of compressed control and user-plane messages (MUCCUP) bytecode section.

22. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the MUCCUP bytecode section comprises a detectable pattern, wherein the detectable pattern indicates the presence of a control message.